

# **Helmeted Guinea Fowl Report**

**The Admission of Pearl, Lavender, and White Helmeted  
Guinea Fowl to the American Poultry Association's  
*American Standard of Perfection* on January 9, 2004**



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## Introduction

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Poultry Association at Lake City, FL on January 9, 2004, it was regularly moved (Jamie Carson) and seconded (S. Robert Powell) that Pearl, Lavender, and White Helmeted Guinea Fowl be admitted to the *American Standard of Perfection*. The motion carried.



At that same meeting of the APA's Board of Directors, it was also regularly moved (Jamie Carson) and seconded (Sam Brush) that there must be at least 25 Helmeted Guinea Fowl in an APA-sanctioned show in order for the APA to award master exhibitor points for Champion Guinea. The motion carried.

This publication is a summary statement about and description of the three and a half year initiative that resulted in the admission of Pearl, Lavender, and White Helmeted Guinea Fowl to the American Poultry Association's *American Standard of Perfection* on January 9, 2004.

Among the materials included herein are (1) a detailed chronology of the admission process for Pearl, Lavender, and White Helmeted Guinea Fowl to the APA's *American Standard of Perfection*; (2) a complete report on the APA qualifying meet for Helmeted Guinea Fowl that was hosted by the Southern Ohio Poultry Association at their show at Lucasville, OH on October 4-5, 2003, (3) a Guinea Fowl Bibliography; and (4) a copy of the final version of the standard of perfection for Pearl, Lavender, and White Helmeted Guinea Fowl.

We have produced and published this *Helmeted Guinea Fowl Report* for two



reasons: (1) to chronicle, for the record, the project and the players in this successful Helmeted Guinea Fowl initiative; and (2) to provide a possible procedural guide/path to follow for subsequent groups of poultry enthusiasts who may be interested in carrying out an initiative to have admitted to the *American Standard of Perfection* a variety, breed, or species of exhibition poultry that was not included in the 1874 standard of perfection that was produced and published by the American Poultry Association.

Now that Helmeted Guinea Fowl have been officially recognized by the American Poultry Association, it is very important that we, as Guinea Fowl breeders, fanciers, and enthusiasts, not only make available Guinea Fowl eggs, keets, and breeding stock to all interested persons, but also regularly show our birds in APA-sanctioned meets.

At the same time, let us rejoice in the fact that Pearl, Lavender, and White Helmeted Guinea Fowl have been admitted to the APA's *American Standard of Perfection*.



Sincere thanks to all who contributed in any way to the success of this initiative to have Helmeted Guinea Fowl officially recognized by the American Poultry Association as a species of exhibition poultry.

Sincerely,

S. Robert Powell  
Rev. Roland Romig  
Don Perrin

# GFBA

## Guinea Fowl Breeders Association

The GFBA <[www.gfba.org](http://www.gfba.org)> encourages, supports, and educates people as to the benefits of raising guinea fowl and provides information and support to those who own or plan to own them. The GFBA publishes an online newsletter and maintains a guinea fowl message board and general store. Current dues are \$10. Membership year runs June 1 through May 31. Join the Guinea Fowl Breeders Association.

GFBA members can access online a beautiful report on the Helmeted Guinea Fowl qualifying meet that took place at Lucasville, OH on October 4-5, 2003. Included in the report are 11 photographs and two movies that were taken at Lucasville.



# **Chronology of the Admission Process for Pearl, Lavender, and White Helmeted Guinea Fowl to the APA's *American Standard of Perfection***

**October 20-22, 2000. Woodstock, Ontario, Canada, Ontario Poultry Breeders and Sarnia Poultry, Pigeon, and Pet Stock Association Show, APA 2000 annual meet.**

At the meeting of the APA's Board of Directors, S. Robert Powell, District 2 Director, reported, at the request of the Rev. Roland Romig, that there was interest among poultry breeders in North America in having Guinea Fowl admitted to the *American Standard of Perfection*. The Board suggested that the leaders of the group interested in seeing Guinea Fowl in the *American Standard of Perfection*--Rev. Roland Romig, Don Perrin, and S. Robert Powell--should organize a public meeting to see just how strong the interest was among the APA membership before proceeding with the initiative. If there was strong interest, the Guinea Fowl group, said the Board, should probably launch the initiative by focusing on only two or three varieties. The group would also have to produce a written standard of perfection for Guinea Fowl.

**March 17-18, 2001, Wapakoneta, OH, West Central Ohio Poultry Breeders Show, APA 2001 semiannual meet**

Initial public meeting, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 11 A.M., of those persons interested in getting Helmeted Guinea Fowl admitted to the APA's *American Standard of Perfection (ASOP)*. The group decided to call itself the Guinea Fowl Standard Group (GFSG). Members of this group were asked to contribute \$10 to cover Xeroxing and postage costs for all mailings related to this Guinea Fowl initiative. Present at this meeting were the Rev. Roland Romig, Don Perrin, Sam Brush, Robert Rhodes, Danny Padgett, Chris McGeorge, George Schroeder, Ruth Binkley, Jonathan Romig, Jeffrey Romig, and S. Robert Powell. As a result of this meeting, the group learned that there was a lot of interest in/support for the initiative, in the United States and Canada, to have Helmeted Guinea Fowl admitted to the *ASOP*. The group decided to focus on three varieties-- Pearl, Lavender, and White--in this initiative. The steering committee (Perrin, Romig, and Powell) agreed to meet and produce a draft of a standard of perfection for Guinea Fowl.



**November 2-4, 2001, Lincoln, NE, Nebraska State Poultry Association show, 2001 APA Annual meet**

At the general membership meeting on November 3, Robert Powell announced to the APA membership that there is strong interest in North America in the initiative to have Helmeted Guinea Fowl admitted to the *ASOP*. Accordingly, it was regularly moved (Powell) and seconded (Nona Shearer) that the Guinea Fowl Standard Group proceed with the Guinea Fowl admission initiative and write a standard of perfection for Guinea Fowl in the APA format. The motion carried.

Three drafts of the standard of perfection were produced by the Guinea Fowl Standard Group in meetings at Sayre, PA, and through telephone conferences. Special thanks to the following persons who provided feedback, comments, and suggestions on each of these drafts: Sam Brush, Pat Malone, Walt Leonard, Curtis Oakes, Lois Jordan, Craig Russell, Marianne Cameron, Arlene Burt, Ruth A. Binkley, Allyson Smith, Ken and Mary Learn, Jeannette S. Ferguson, Phyllis Bender, Harold E. Knapp, Barbara J. Trupp, Bart Pals, and Jamie Carson.

Nineteen individuals and organizations became members of the GFSG for 2001-2002: Rev. Roland Romig, S. Robert Powell, Don Perrin, Curtis Oakes, Bob Rhodes, Ruth A. Binkley, Danny Padgett, Ralph Winter, Craig Russell, Ken and Mary Learn, Harold E. Knapp, Marianne Cameron, Jeannette S. Ferguson, Allyson Smith, Guinea Fowl Breeders Association, Barbara J. Trupp, Sandy Kavanaugh, Jamie Carson, and D. David DeLand.

**March 16-17, 2002, Fort Worth, TX, Cowtown Poultry Association show, 2002 APA Semiannual**

At the Board of Directors meeting on March 15, Robert Powell submitted a completed Application for Admittance to the *American Standard of Perfection* for Pearl, Lavender, and White Helmeted Guinea Fowl. Craig Russell, Curtis Oakes, Fay Forward, Ken and Mary Learn, and Barbara J. Trupp generously contributed funds to be used toward the filing fee (\$150) that was paid to the APA at the time the petition was submitted.

Before taking action on the petition, the Board said that the APA would conduct a survey of the membership to determine the extent of the interest among the membership as a whole in having Helmeted Guinea Fowl admitted to the *American Standard of Perfection*. The Board voted 12 to 2 in favor of using an opinion poll to determine if the APA membership were in favor of the Guinea Fowl admission initiative. An opinion poll/response form was published in the spring and summer issues of *News and Views*.



**November 8-10, 2002, Columbus, OH, Ohio Poultry Breeders show, 2002 APA annual meet**

At the Board meeting on November 8, the results of the APA Guinea Fowl opinion poll were announced: the membership voted three-to-one (with 350 votes cast) in favor of the Guinea Fowl admission initiative. The APA's Standard Committee gave the Guinea Fowl Standard Group a "recommendation to proceed." Al Watts, chairman of the APA's Constitution and By-laws Committee, made a proposal that the APA's by-laws be revised to make it possible to admit to the ASOP a species of poultry not included in the 1874 standard of perfection (e.g., Helmeted Guinea Fowl). The proposed changes in the by-laws were published in the winter 2002 issue of *News and Views*.

To commemorate this important Guinea Fowl initiative, Helmeted Guinea Fowl were chosen as the bird of the year by the Central Pennsylvania Avian Club and were featured on the club's 2003 mailing envelope.

**May 24-25, 2003, Lucasville, OH, Southern Ohio Poultry Association show, 2003 APA Semiannual**

On a motion by S. Robert Powell, with a second from Gene Bunting, the APA's Board of Directors voted in favor of the by-laws changes that were proposed at Columbus, OH in November 2002 by the Standard Committee which make it possible to admit Helmeted Guinea Fowl to the ASOP. The Guinea Fowl Standard Group submitted (1) the names of five poultry shows where it felt a qualifying meet for Pearl, Lavender, and Helmeted Guinea Fowl could be held, and (2) the names of three possible judges for the qualifying meet. The APA Standard Committee chose as the site of the qualifying meet the Southern Ohio Poultry Association show on October 4-5, 2003, with Curtis R. Oakes as Guinea Fowl judge.

Eleven individuals and organizations became members of the GFSG for 2002-2003: Alban Salser, Ken and Mary Learn, Curtis R. Oakes, Harold Knapp, Rev. Roland Romig, S. Robert Powell, Don Perrin, Fay Forward, Craig Russell, Robert Rhodes, and Marianne Cameron. In renewing his membership in the group, Don Perrin enclosed a donation in memory of Ruth A. Binkley, who died on Saturday, June 29, 2002. Ruth was one of the first supporters of this Guinea Fowl initiative and her enthusiasm for the cause was great.

**October 4-5, 2003, Lucasville, Ohio, Southern Ohio Poultry Association Show**

Successful APA qualifying meet for Pearl, Lavender, and White Helmeted Guinea Fowl, with Curtis R. Oakes as judge, Kathy Gratsch as clerk, and Alban Salser as bird handling assistant. The meet coordinators were Don Perrin, Rev. Roland Romig, and S. Robert Powell who, together with Tom Lipiec and Alban Salser, constituted the Guinea Fowl Show Committee. Generous cash specials (\$1115.00) were put up for this qualifying meet by Guinea Fowl breeders and exhibitors and by friends of this initiative to have Helmeted Guinea fowl admitted to the ASOP. See detailed report elsewhere in this publication.



Sincere thanks to the Southern Ohio Poultry Association from the Guinea Fowl Standard Group for hosting the APA qualifying meet for Pearl, Lavender, and White Helmeted Guinea Fowl.

**January 10-11, 2004, Lake City, FL, Florida Sunshine Classic, APA 2003 annual meet**

Guinea Fowl specials for junior exhibitors (\$110) that were not awarded at the qualifying meet at Lucasville in October 2003 (no junior Guinea Fowl exhibitors at Lucasville) were transferred to the 2003 APA annual meet at Lake City, FL. Given the fact that there were no junior Guinea Fowl exhibitors at the 2003 APA annual meet, the Guinea Fowl Standard Group decided to make available the \$110 in question to underwrite, in part, the costs of the production, printing, and mailing of this *Helmeted Guinea Fowl Report*.

Given (1) the declaration submitted to the APA Standard Committee by the judge of the Helmeted Guinea Fowl (Pearl, Lavender, and White) qualifying meet, Curtis R. Oakes, that the meet was successful and, (2) Curtis Oakes' recommendation to the APA Standard Committee that Helmeted Guinea Fowl be admitted to the *American Standard of Perfection*, the Standard Committee recommended to the APA Board of Directors at their meeting on January 9, 2004 that Pearl, Lavender, and White Helmeted Guinea Fowl be admitted to the *American Standard of Perfection*. In response to that recommendation, it was regularly moved (Jamie Carson) and seconded (S. R. Powell) that Pearl, Lavender, and White Helmeted Guinea Fowl be admitted to the *American Standard of Perfection*. The motion carried. It was also regularly moved (Jamie Carson) and seconded (Sam Brush) that there must be at least 25 Helmeted Guinea Fowl in an APA-sanctioned show in order for the APA to award master exhibitor points for Champion Guinea. The motion carried.

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# Guinea Fowl Qualifying Meet Held at Lucasville Show

By S. Robert Powell

The APA qualifying meet for Pearl, Lavender, and White Helmeted Guinea Fowl took place in conjunction with the tenth annual fall show of the Southern Ohio Poultry Association at Lucasville, OH, on October 4-5, 2003.

The Guinea Fowl were judged by Curtis R. Oakes, with Kathy Gratsch as clerk and Alban Salser as bird handling assistant. The meet coordinators for the Guinea Fowl group were Don Perrin (Alexander, NY), Rev. Roland Romig (Sayre, PA), and S. Robert Powell (Carbondale, PA) who, together with Tom Lipiec (West Edmeston, NY) and Alban Salser (Pomeroy, OH), constituted the Guinea Fowl show committee.

There were 76 Pearl Guineas in the show: 24 cocks, 19 hens, 9 cockerels, 12 pullets, 1 old trio, and 3 young trios. These birds were shown by 11 exhibitors: Brian and Amy Rismiller, Carl Shepherd, Don Perrin, Robert Sando, Robert Rhodes, S. Robert Powell, Fay Forward, Martin Schmidt, Kenneth and Mary Learn, Barb Trupp and Darryl Martin, and Craig Russell.

There were 53 Lavender Guineas in the show: 17 cocks, 17 hens, 8 cockerels, 8 pullets, and 1 young trio. These birds were shown by 9 exhibitors: Zelotes Eschmeyer, Jeanne Trent, Barb Trupp and Darryl Martin, Craig Russell, LeRoy R. Morey, Fay Forward, Robert Rhodes, Don Perrin, and S. Robert Powell.

There were 63 White Guineas in the show: 22 cocks, 14 hens, 12 cockerels, 12 pullets, and 1 young trio. These birds were shown by 8 exhibitors: Tom Lipiec, Barb Trupp and Darryl Martin, Kenneth and Mary Learn, Fay Forward, Craig Russell, Robert Rhodes, Don Perrin, and S. Robert Powell.

In the show there were also 28 Helmeted Guinea Fowl of these varieties: Royal (1c, 2h), Silver Wing (1c, 2h), Bronze (1c), Buff (1c, 1h), Buff Dundotte (2c, 2h, 2p), Coral Blue (3c, 2h), Porcelain (3c, 2h), Lavender Pied (1k), Violet (1c), and Slate (1c).



In all, there were 220 Helmeted Guinea Fowl, of 13 varieties, in the show.

Champion Pearl was a hen shown by S. Robert Powell. Reserve Champion Pearl was the cock out of the old trio shown by S. Robert Powell.

Champion Lavender was a cockerel shown by Fay Forward. Reserve Champion Lavender was a hen shown by Don Perrin.

Champion White was a cock shown by Don Perrin. Reserve Champion White was a cockerel shown by Tom Lipiec.

Champion AOV Guinea was a Silver Wing hen shown by Don Perrin. Reserve Champion AOV Guinea was a Coral Blue hen shown by Don Perrin.

The Champion Young Trio and the Champion Old Trio were both Pearls, and both were shown by S. Robert Powell.

Kenneth and Mary Learn showed the Champion Display of Whites (210 points). S. Robert Powell showed the Champion Display of Lavenders (160 points). The Champion Display of Pearls and the Champion Display of Guinea Fowl in the Show were the Pearl Guineas exhibited by S. Robert Powell, whose birds earned a total of 402 points.

The Champion Guinea of the Show was the Pearl hen shown by S. Robert Powell. The Reserve Champion Guinea of the Show was the Pearl cock shown by S. Robert Powell. For those wins, Powell was awarded generous cash specials and plaques by the Southern Ohio Poultry Association.

The Third Best Guinea in the show was shown by Don Perrin, the BV White cock.

There were a great many cash "specials" (\$1115.00) that were put up for the qualifying meet by Guinea Fowl breeders and exhibitors and by friends of this initiative to have Helmeted Guinea Fowl admitted to the APA's "American Standard of Perfection."



Among the individuals memorialized in specials were Cyril Menges, Arthur Romig, Arthur Schallenberg, Addison Earley, Robert Callihan, Dale Rice, Harold Schroder, Harry Brown, Ruth Binkley, and Phyllis Bender's first house Guinea, "Enjay."

Specials in honor of the following individuals, organizations, and entities were put up by Guinea Fowl breeders, exhibitors, and friends: Jeannette S. Ferguson, Guinea Fowl Breeders Association, Central Pennsylvania Avian Club, [www.guineafowl.com](http://www.guineafowl.com), Don Perrin, S. Robert Powell, Connie Testani, and Jeannette S. Ferguson's book "Gardening with Guineas."

Five of those specials were for junior exhibitors. As there were no junior exhibitors of Guinea Fowl in the show at Lucasville, the Guinea Fowl group decided to transfer those specials, with a total value of \$110, to the APA annual meet that will take place in conjunction with the 2003 APA annual meeting, to be hosted by the Florida Sunshine Classic in Lake City, FL, January 10-11, 2004. These specials for juniors will be awarded at that meet, provided there are at least 10 guinea fowl in the show.

Copies of the standard of perfection for Pearl, Lavender, and White Helmeted Guinea Fowl are available on-line at the webpage of the APA District 2 Director: go to the APA's homepage ([www.ampltya.com](http://www.ampltya.com)) and click on "District 2 Director." To obtain a paper copy, contact S. Robert Powell at R. D. #1, Box 40, Carbondale, PA 18407-9706, or [srp18407@yahoo.com](mailto:srp18407@yahoo.com).

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- Poultry Press*, August 2003 issue: two articles: "Guinea Fowl Qualifying Meet Scheduled" (p. 3) by Christine Willard, SPPA Publicity Director; "Helmeted Guinea Fowl Qualifying Meet" (p. 32) by S. Robert Powell .
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# **Helmeted Guinea Fowl Specials**

**APA Qualifying Meet, Curtis R. Oakes, judge**

**Meet Coordinators: Don Perrin, S. Robert Powell, and Rev. Roland Romig**

**Southern Ohio Poultry Show: Lucasville, OH, October 4-5, 2003**

**The name of the winner of each of these specials is given in parentheses at the end of the special.**

## **Show Champions (\$365)**

\$50 for Grand Champion Guinea, from Fay H. Forward (S. R. Powell)

\$50 for Grand Champion Guinea, in honor of S. Robert Powell for His Dedication to this Project, from Don Perrin (S. R. Powell)

\$20 for Grand Champion Guinea, in honor of Jeannette S. Ferguson, from the Guinea Fowl Breeders Association (S. R. Powell)

\$20 for Grand Champion Guinea, in honor of Jeannette S. Ferguson, from Phyllis Bender (S. R. Powell)

\$20 for Grand Champion Guinea, in honor of the Guinea Fowl Breeders Association, from Phyllis Bender (S. R. Powell)

\$25 for Champion Guinea Shown by an Exhibitor from the State of New York, in memory of Art Schallenberg and Addison Earley, by Ken and Mary Learn (Don Perrin, for his BV White cock)

\$25 for Champion Guinea Shown by a Junior, in memory of Cyril Menges, from the Central Pennsylvania Avian Club (no junior exhibitors in show; special transferred to 2003 APA annual meet)

\$10 for Champion Guinea Shown by a Junior, in honor of the Central Pennsylvania Avian Club, from Sandy Kavanaugh (no junior exhibitors in show; special transferred to 2003 APA annual meet)

\$25 for Reserve Champion Guinea, from Walt Leonard (S. R. Powell)

\$20 for Reserve Champion Guinea, in memory of Enjay, "my first house Guinea," from Phyllis Bender (S. R. Powell)

\$50 for Reserve Champion Guinea, from Fay H. Forward (S. R. Powell)

\$25 for Third Best Guinea, from Fay H. Forward (Don Perrin, BV White cock)

\$25 for Champion Display of Guineas, from August Vinhage (S. R. Powell, 402 points, Pearl guineas)



## **Pearl (\$260)**

- \$25 for Champion Pearl, from Fay H. Forward (S. R. Powell)
- \$25 for Champion Pearl Shown by a Junior, in memory of Cyril Menges, from the Central Pennsylvania Avian Club (no junior exhibitors in show; special transferred to 2003 APA annual meet)
- \$20 for Champion Pearl Cock, in memory of Ruth Binkley, from Barbara Trupp (Don Perrin)
- \$5 for Champion Pearl Cock, from John Alloway (Don Perrin)
- \$20 for Champion Pearl Cock, in honor of [www.guineafowl.com](http://www.guineafowl.com), from Jeannette S. Ferguson (Don Perrin)
- \$50 for Champion Pearl Hen, in memory of Ruth Binkley, from The Amigos at The Cozy Nest: Brenda, Arlene, Lyn, and Vickie (S. R. Powell)
- \$20 for Champion Pearl Hen, in memory of Robert Callihan, from John Alloway (S. R. Powell)
- \$10 for Champion Pearl Cockerel, in honor of the Central Pennsylvania Avian Club, from Sandy Kavanaugh (Barb Trupp and Darryl Martin)
- \$10 for Champion Pearl Pullet, from Barbara Trupp (Barb Trupp and Darryl Martin)
- \$25 for Best Display of Pearl Guineas, from Rev. Roland Romig (S. R. Powell)
- \$50 to the Exhibitor Showing the Largest Number of Pearl Guineas, from Lew S. McGinnis (Don Perrin)

## **Lavender (\$190)**

- \$25 for Champion Lavender, from Fay H. Forward (Fay Forward)



- \$25 for Champion Lavender Shown by a Junior, in memory of Dale Rice, from the Central Pennsylvania Avian Club (no junior exhibitors in show; special transferred to 2003 APA annual meet)
- \$5 for Champion Lavender Cock, from John Alloway (Don Perrin)
- \$5 for 5<sup>th</sup> Place Lavender Cock, from Duane & Phyllis Urch (Don Perrin)
- \$5 for 5<sup>th</sup> Place Lavender Hen, from Duane & Phyllis Urch (Fay Forward)
- \$10 for Champion Lavender Cockerel, in memory of Harold Schroder, from Emery's Bantam Roost (Fay Forward)
- \$10 for Champion Lavender Cockerel, in honor of the Central Pennsylvania Avian Club, from Sandy Kavanaugh (Fay Forward)
- \$5 for 8<sup>th</sup> Place Lavender Cockerel, from Duane & Phyllis Urch (S. R. Powell)
- \$10 for Champion Lavender Pullet, in memory of Harry Brown, from Emery's Bantam Roost (Fay Forward)
- \$10 for Champion Lavender Pullet, from Barbara Trupp (Fay Forward)
- \$5 for 8<sup>th</sup> Place Lavender Pullet, from Duane & Phyllis Urch (S. R. Powell)
- \$25 for Best Display of Lavender Guineas, from Rev. Roland Romig (S. R. Powell, 160 points)
- \$50 to the Exhibitor Showing the Largest Number of Lavender Guineas, from Lew S. McGinnis (Don Perrin)

### **White (\$230)**

- \$25 for Champion White, from Fay H. Forward (Don Perrin, a cock)
- \$25 for Champion White Shown by a Junior, in memory of Arthur Romig, from the Central Pennsylvania Avian Club (no junior exhibitors in show; special transferred to 2003 APA annual meet)
- \$10 for Champion White Cock, in honor of Don Perrin, from Emery's Bantam Roost (Don Perrin)
- \$20 for Champion White Cock from Barbara Trupp (Don Perrin)
- \$20 for Champion White Hen, from Barbara Trupp (Don Perrin)
- \$25 for Champion White Hen, from Dan MacNeice, in honor of Connie Testani of Huntington, CT (Don Perrin)



\$5 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place White Hen, from John Alloway (Tom Lipiec)  
\$10 for Champion White Cockerel, in honor of the Central Pennsylvania  
Avian Club, from Sandy Kavanaugh (Tom Lipiec)  
\$10 for Champion White Pullet, from Barbara Trupp (Fay Forward)  
\$10 for Champion White Pullet, in memory of Cyril Menges, from  
Emery's Bantam Roost (Fay Forward)  
\$20 for Best Display of Whites (APA rules) from Curtis R. Oakes -  
Feather Edge Farm (Kenneth and Mary Learn, 210 points)  
\$50 to the Exhibitor Showing the Largest Number of White Guineas,  
from Lew S. McGinnis (Don Perrin)

### **Any Other Color (\$70)**

\$25 for Champion Any Other Color but Pearl, Lavender, or White, from  
Don Perrin (Don Perrin, Silver Wing hen)  
\$20 for Champion Any Other Color but Pearl, Lavender, or White, in  
honor of Jeannette S. Ferguson's book *Gardening with Guineas*,  
from FFE Media Inc. (Don Perrin, Silver Wing hen)  
\$15 for Reserve Champion Any Other Color but Pearl, Lavender, or  
White, from Don Perrin (Don Perrin, Coral Blue hen)  
\$10 for Champion Silver Wing Guinea (solid white breast, back is  
lighter gray than in Pearl variety), from Barbara Trupp (Don  
Perrin, a hen)

\* \* \* \* \*

Admitting the next variety of Helmeted Guinea Fowl to the  
*American Standard of Perfection*:

Craig and Ruth Russell (Middleburg, PA) have put up a \$30 special for  
"Champion Guinea, in Memory of Cyril Menges" at the qualifying meet for  
the next variety of Helmeted Guinea Fowl to be admitted to the APA's  
*American Standard of Perfection*.

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# Standard of Perfection

## Helmeted Guinea Fowl

(*Numida meleagris*)

Guinea Fowl, which are native to Africa, were domesticated there more than 4,000 years ago by the Egyptians. The ancient Greeks and Romans acquired domesticated Guineas from both the East and West coasts of Africa and blended the two. They then featured them prominently in their gardens and aviaries. At the same time, they regarded Guinea Fowl as a table delicacy.

The Romans spread Guinea Fowl across Europe. With the fall of the Roman Empire, however, Guinea Fowl appear to have disappeared from northern and western Europe. In the 15th century, Portuguese traders introduced wild Guinea Fowl from West Africa into Europe and Guinea Fowl were again domesticated. They have been a popular domestic fowl ever since.

Guinea Fowl appear in Greek mythology: When Meleager, who succeeded in killing the Calydonian boar, was killed, his sisters Deianira (wife of Hercules) and Gorge were put to death and turned into Guinea Fowl by Artemis. The tears that they shed showered their sable plumage with white spots. Dionysus pleaded with Artemis to undo her work, and the sisters were returned to their human form.



## Judging Guinea Fowl

The correct age and gender classifications for Guinea Fowl in poultry shows are cock, hen, cockerel, and pullet. Guinea fowl are rarely handled by the judge until the final placings are decided upon, and then only those birds which he/she expects to place. Those birds are then examined for any defects or disqualifications not apparent from the aisle. Judges should keep in mind that a female Guinea Fowl in heavy production may have faded leg color. Pinioned wings, if smoothly healed, are acceptable, as are clipped primary or secondary wing feathers. Duck foot can occur in Guinea Fowl and judges are advised to be on the lookout for it and to disqualify any bird with a duck foot.

To the untrained eye and from the aisle, it is not always an easy matter to determine the gender of Guinea Fowl. The calls made by adult birds are very useful in distinguishing the sexes. Guinea Fowl males utter a one-syllable call, usually repeated several times in succession: *chit, chit, chit*; females utter a two-syllable call, usually repeated several times in succession ("buck-wheat, buck-wheat, buck-wheat, buck-wheat"). A Guinea Fowl chick is properly referred to as a *keet*.



# Scale of Points

Section	Type	Color	Total
Symmetry and Carriage	5	-	5
Condition	10	-	10
Weight	5	-	5
Head	4	1	5
Eyes	4	1	5
Helmet and Wattles	7	3	10
Neck	3	2	5
Back	8	4	12
Tail	4	3	7
Wings	6	3	9
Breast	8	3	11
Body and Fluff	6	2	8
Legs and Toes	5	3	8
	75	25	100



## Standard Weights

Cock.....4.0 pounds

Cockerel.....3.5 pounds

Hen.....3.5 pounds

Pullet.....3.0 pounds

Weight is a breed characteristic. Any Guinea Fowl that deviates more than 20% either up or down from the weights listed above shall be disqualified from exhibition. For all Guinea Fowl, there is a 1-point cut for each 1/4 pound underweight. There is no point cut for the first 1/4 pound overweight, but there is a 1-point cut for each 1/4 pound thereafter.

## Defects

- Under-developed helmet
- Mismatched wattles: one tucked (carried flat, laterally, close to the side of the throat) and one cupped (concave, carried at a 90-degree angle to the side of the head) on **young** birds of either sex
- A white feather in any section of the plumage of a colored Guinea Fowl
- A colored feather in any section of the plumage of a white Guinea Fowl
- Black flecking or a yellow cast to the plumage of a white Guinea Fowl is a serious defect.

## Disqualifications

- One or more white primaries or secondaries in any colored Guinea Fowl
- One or more colored primaries or secondaries in any white Guinea Fowl
- Mismatched wattles: one tucked (carried flat, laterally, close to the side of the throat) and one cupped (concave, carried at a 90-degree angle to the side of the head) on **adult** birds of either sex



# Shape

## Male

**HEAD:** Short and broad, topped with a triangular-shaped helmet, which slopes slightly down-ward at the rear. The area between the nostrils and the front of the helmet is flat. The face, back of the head, and the upper neck are devoid of feathers. At the back of the head, however, starting at the base of the helmet, there is a narrow band of hair-like plumage, pointing upward, that runs down the back of the head and neck to the hackle feathers. This band of hair-like plumage gets wider as it approaches and connects to the hackle.

**NOSTRILS:** Prominent; a narrow band of thick skin crosses the bridge of the nose between the wattles.

**BEAK:** Short, stout, and well curved.

**EYES:** Large, round, very alert; lashes--even, prominent, well formed

**WATTLES:** Stiff, wide, smooth, and free from folds or wrinkles. Both wattles cupped (concave and carried at a 90-degree angle to the side of the head).

**NECK:** Lower neck and hackle covered with small, fine, and narrow feathers. A slight dewlap is acceptable.

**BREAST:** Well rounded and prominent, carried above horizontal, and curving in an unbroken line to the hocks.

**BACK:** Very broad and sloping in a descending curve from the base of the neck to the tip of the tail. When showing, the carriage of the Guinea Fowl is upright.

**WINGS:** Large, wide, and strong, well tucked-in. No points will be deducted for pinioned wings.

**BODY:** Fairly long, deep, well rounded, and solid.

**TAIL:** Relatively short and carried low

**THIGHS:** Medium in length, lower thigh not visible from the aisle

**SHANKS and TOES:** Shanks relatively short and not feathered; feet with four straight, well spread, and strong toes. Males and females are both without spurs.



## **Female**

Same as male, except that the female's helmet is smaller than that of the male, whose helmet is more elongated and broader at the rear than the female's. The nostrils on the female Guinea Fowl are less prominent than on the male. Tucked wattles (carried flat, laterally, close to the side of the throat) or cupped wattles (concave and carried at a 90-degree angle to the side of the head) are acceptable on the female Guinea Fowl. When showing, the carriage of the Guinea Fowl is upright, although the female Guinea Fowl's stance is not as upright as that of the male.

## **Color**

### **Pearl**

#### **Male and Female**

Plumage is blue-gray throughout, generously and regularly marked with pearl-like white spots or wavy bars of white, depending on the section of the bird in question. The largest and most circular pearls on the bird appear in the fluff feathers at the rear of the bird. The general impression is one of a spotted gray bird. Undercolor is dark slate. Indistinct barring and/or indistinct pearls in the wings is a defect.

**BEAK:** Reddish-horn, darker at the base

**EYES:** Dark brown or black

**HELMET:** Light brown, nearly black in young birds

**WATTLES:** Coral red, some white on underside of male wattles and at the outer top of the female wattles is permissible.

**HEAD:** A crescent-shaped patch of featherless bluish-white skin, beginning in front of the eyes and extending back to the band of hair-like plumage at the back of the neck, covers the side of the face. Bluish-black skin covers the remainder of the head, neck, and throat, down to the hackle--except for the horn and the immediate area around its base. The area from the base of the beak to the base of the helmet is coral red, matching the color of the wattles.

**HACKLE:** The hackle and the front of the lower neck show fine, blue-gray feathers without pearls or bars. When seen in sunlight, these feathers show some iridescence.

**BACK:** The back and shoulders are bluish-gray, with small pearls, which increase in size as one approaches the tail.

**TAIL:** The tail and coverts are bluish-gray, showing well rounded pearls.



**BREAST:** The breast and lower body are bluish-gray, with good-sized and well-rounded pearls throughout.

**WINGS:** Primaries: Upper web is light bluish-gray, marked primarily with parallel wavy bars of white on the inner primaries, and pearls in rows on the outer primaries. Lower web is marked with pearls at regular intervals.

Secondaries: Outer edge of upper and lower webs marked with regular pattern of short parallel white bars; central part of each feather is marked by three to five longitudinal rows of pearls.

**LEGS, TOES, and NAILS:** Dark slate, mottled with dusky orange. Judges should keep in mind that a female Guinea Fowl in heavy production may have faded leg color.

## **Lavender**

The pattern is identical to that of the Pearl, the ground color of the plumage is light gray, or lavender. Shanks and toes are light gray to orange. Indistinct barring and/or indistinct pearls in the wing feathers is a defect.

## **White**

Plumage is pure white throughout all sections on ideal specimens, in both male and female. Black hair feathers on the lower neck and hackle, however, are acceptable, but not preferred. Black flecking or a yellow cast to the plumage is a serious defect. Shanks and toes are orange; spotty shanks and toes are a defect. The eyes are light bay to brown.

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